

THE WICKERSHAM CHARGES

Senate Committee Has Already Found Them Baseless.

HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATED

No Delinquency on Attorney General's Part Shown—He Makes Informal Reply.

(From The Tribune Bureau.)
Washington, July 15.—There are only two defects in the charges submitted by Delegate Wickersham, of Alaska, against Attorney General Wickham, and on which the House Judiciary Committee has ordered an investigation. The first is that they are not true. The second is that they have been thoroughly investigated by the Senate Judiciary Committee and by it found to be false.

Whether or not the allegations on which Delegate Wickersham bases his charges have any basis of fact is being investigated by the Senate Judiciary Committee, and the status of the investigation is being followed by the House Judiciary Committee. That is the affair which, it is alleged, was a perjury. If the contract with the government appears, when the investigation now being conducted by Stuart McNamara, special attorney for the government, is completed, to be fraudulent, an indictment will be procured. There remain six months in which to procure such an indictment.

An investigation of the charges that the expense account of one M. B. Morrissey in connection with the Hazy murder trial showed an expenditure of \$1,133 for the entertainment of witnesses and jurors, which investigation was ordered by the Attorney General, resulted in a report that "there was not a scintilla of evidence that any funds were expended for this purpose until after the verdict was rendered."

The letter of the Attorney General to Delegate Wickersham saying that the status of limitations had been referred to a possible prosecution for perjury and not to a prosecution for fraud, a fact which Delegate Wickersham was careful to suppress.

Practically all the charges now preferred by Delegate Wickersham, and of which the committee has ordered an investigation, were preferred by him when John Rusk was nominated for United States Attorney and Herbert L. Faulkner was nominated for United States marshal of the District of Alaska, on April 25, 1910. A thorough investigation was then conducted by a sub-committee, composed of both Democrats and Republicans, and of which Senator Nelson, whose integrity none dare challenge, was chairman. The work of the sub-committee was reviewed by the full committee, and Rusk was confirmed on June 29, 1910, and Faulkner was confirmed May 9, 1911. The committee found that all proper steps had been taken by the Attorney General and that the insinuations of Delegate Wickersham were baseless.

Whether or not the suicide of Captain Jarvis, of the Alaska syndicate, which coincided with the introduction of Delegate Wickersham's resolution in this House, had any connection therewith is not known, but there is a suspicion that the relation of cause and effect in this instance was about as close as in that of the clientele which assumed that because the sun rose each day immediately after it crowded his moving was the cause of that phenomenon.

Attorney General to Testify.

The unbridled antagonism of Delegate Wickersham to the Taft administration is well known, and there is no surprise that he should have taken advantage of the eager desire of the Democrats to discover some scandal from which campaign material may be made to revamp his charges and exploit them in the most sensational manner possible. In due time the Attorney General will go on the stand and answer all questions the committee may care to ask, and there is entire confidence that all who desire to know the truth will then be able to satisfy themselves that there has been no delinquency on the part of the Department of Justice in its handling of the interests of the government in Alaska. How far the investigating committee will be guided by the facts as disclosed by its investigation, or how far it may be swayed by an immoderate desire to create campaign material, cannot, of course, be foretold.

Attorney General Wickham to-day made an informal reply to the charge of Delegate Wickersham that he had allowed the statute of limitations to expire in certain Alaska criminal cases without taking action.

"I have not given a definite opinion that the statute of limitations has expired in all of these cases," he said. "It is not improper that criminal action may be taken. The matter is still under investigation, in so far as it relates to the alleged combination of holders in the coal proposition. The case, however, I think is barred by the statute. I will continue my investigation of the others. It has been under way for some time and has never been discontinued."

Delegate Wickersham declared to-day that the same evidence concerning Alaskan lands had been furnished to J. M. Dickinson, ex-Secretary of War, as was furnished Attorney General Wickham in May, 1910, and that he never acknowledged receipt of the documents. He had this statement used in the records of the hearings of the Judiciary Committee.

Asked with it was the further statement that Delegate Wickersham submitted to the Attorney General more than a year ago evidence of the alleged bribing of a United States District Attorney by the Alaska syndicate, one of the organizations in the Alaska syndicate.

"I have evidence," said Delegate Wickersham, "that \$2,000 was used to bribe a United States District Attorney. That is the only District Attorney. That is the

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THE DAY IN WASHINGTON

(From The Tribune Bureau.)

TARIFF LEGISLATION.—It would be rash to venture a prediction in opposition to that of distinguished statesmen as Senators Crane, Smoot and Williams, all of whom assured the President today that he would be called upon to approve or reject a tariff bill modifying the wool schedule, and yet there are some potent reasons which may operate to disprove their prediction. The plan of the Democrats and the insurgents is to pass the La Follette bill in the Senate as soon as the House will vote solidly against the La Follette measure, but it is possible that a sufficient number of Democrats can be persuaded to support it to get the two bills into conference. It is the hope of both insurgents and Democrats that out of conference will come some measure on which both houses can agree—the Senate, of course, by a coalition of Democrats and insurgents, and the House by a material yielding of the demand of the majority for a reduction of the duty on raw wool to 20 per cent. Those who know the unstable character of the insurgents, the violent opposition of the Bryan Democrats in the House to any duty on raw wool, etc., this plan appears to be fraught with difficulty and extremely likely to fail. Of course, the insurgents are delighted with the idea and are positive in their predictions that it will succeed. The Democratic leaders of the House declare they will never approve "an incongruous and illogical measure" as that offered by the Senator from Wisconsin, but say that if the Senate confers it will consent to very material alterations, such as will make the measure reported out of conference conform approximately to the House measure, the House will yield to some extent. Just how far the insurgents will be willing to go in approving a measure reported from conference which nearly conforms to the House measure is not known. They will go far in their effort to promote an end which they confidently believe will "put the President in a hole," but whether they are willing completely to abandon the policy of protection remains to be seen. In the case of the President is concerned, the prediction is made without fear that he will veto any wool bill which may be sent to him at this time, nor will he consider that he has been "put in a hole" if he is confronted with the necessity of so doing. He has repeatedly declared his conviction that no attempt should be made to revise the wool schedule until the report of the Tariff Board is received, and he would veto such a bill with the knowledge that he was wholly consistent and without the slightest fear of public condemnation. However, and with all due respect for the judgment of the eminent statesmen who predict that the two houses will get together on a wool bill, it is recorded that "there is many a slip between the cup and the lip"—and especially when there is an insurgent in the equation.

THE WILEY CASE.—The fate of Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, chief chemist, rests entirely with himself. The President has asked him to prepare a reply to the charges filed against him. Prompt compliance with this request, and in the proper spirit, will doubtless result only in a reproof by the President because the eminent chemist has let his zeal outrun his judgment and his loyalty to his chief, the Secretary of Agriculture, with a warning. The statement was made in this column that the administration did not wish this case to become public until the time came for its final disposition. It may be added that had there been no publicity the end outlined here would have inevitably resulted. Genuine friends of Dr. Wiley will be wise to refrain from adding to the publicity attending the case, which, after all, is largely one of departmental administration, and of which the President is amply capable of handling without unsolicited advice. Those who have the creation of political capital or the exploitation of themselves or their party factions chiefly at heart will naturally pursue an opposite course, which is their right, but which they should not pretend to be following in the interest of Dr. Wiley, who reads no special pleader at court and who is amply capable of taking care of himself if his own good judgment is not hampered or obscured by the advice of unwise friends.

PEANUT POLITICS.—The effort of certain Democratic statesmen to make it appear that the Department of Justice has been guilty of gross extravagance and favoritism in its treatment of the Guggenheim interests is an illustration of the muddy thinking and peanut politics which

kind of matter I have been vainly trying to get this government to investigate and prosecute."

Seattle, July 15.—H. K. Douglas, formerly chief of the Alaska syndicate, was accused, were generally considered to represent opposing interests in the syndicate. Jarvis, a former officer in the revenue service, where he won a medal for heroism, was introduced to J. P. Morgan by Theodore Roosevelt, it is said, and was regarded here as Morgan's representative. Douglas was lined up with the Guggenheim interests. The two clashed frequently.

Following a railroad men's fight in Keystone Canyon on the charge of murder, Douglas charged Jarvis with improper use of money in connection with the trial. Douglas later left the company, but took with him to New York photographic copies of alleged vouchers for expenditures in the trial and some other documents unfavorable to Jarvis.

The Guggenheim interests were strong in the syndicate, however, and Jarvis was pushed down from complete management to the treasury of the Northwest Fisheries Company, a subsidiary concern. He planned to resign from this, but it was said that he never acknowledged receipt of the documents. He had this statement used in the records of the hearings of the Judiciary Committee.

Asked with it was the further statement that Delegate Wickersham submitted to the Attorney General more than a year ago evidence of the alleged bribing of a United States District Attorney by the Alaska syndicate, one of the organizations in the Alaska syndicate.

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appear to be the chief characteristics of these who have in charge the various investigations which House committees are now conducting. With regard to the matter of fees it is, perhaps, not unnatural that lawyers who never saw a larger room than the House of Representatives should be paid \$10,000, \$20,000, \$30,000, \$40,000, \$50,000, \$60,000, \$70,000, \$80,000, \$90,000, \$100,000, \$110,000, \$120,000, \$130,000, \$140,000, \$150,000, \$160,000, \$170,000, \$180,000, \$190,000, \$200,000, \$210,000, \$220,000, \$230,000, \$240,000, \$250,000, \$260,000, \$270,000, \$280,000, \$290,000, \$300,000, \$310,000, \$320,000, \$330,000, \$340,000, \$350,000, \$360,000, \$370,000, \$380,000, \$390,000, \$400,000, \$410,000, \$420,000, \$430,000, \$440,000, \$450,000, \$460,000, \$470,000, \$480,000, \$490,000, \$500,000, \$510,000, \$520,000, \$530,000, \$540,000, \$550,000, \$560,000, \$570,000, \$580,000, \$590,000, \$600,000, \$610,000, \$620,000, \$630,000, \$640,000, \$650,000, \$660,000, \$670,000, \$680,000, \$690,000, \$700,000, \$710,000, \$720,000, \$730,000, \$740,000, \$750,000, \$760,000, \$770,000, 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